

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SIG-03 HA-05  
TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 OES-09  
ACDA-12 AID-05 XMB-02 EB-08 COME-00 /143 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:GBEYER  
APPROVED BY AF:RMMOOSE

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P R 281507Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217872

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PORG, ET, XJ

SUBJECT: MEETING OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE WITH  
ETHIOPIAN CHARGE D'AFFAIRES

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REF: ADDIS ABABA 3702 AND STATE 211642

I. ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE ASKED ETHIOPIAN CHARGE  
D'AFFAIRES TIBABU BEKELE TO COME IN AUGUST 25 FOR A  
TALK ON PUERTO RICO AND THE VOTE SCHEDULED IN THE  
COMITTEE OF 24 NEXT WEEK AT THE UN. SEVERAL OTHER  
SUBJECTS WERE ALSO DISCUSSED IN THE FORTY FIVE MINUTE

MEETING.

2. PUERTO RICO AND COMMITTEE OF 24: MOOSE REVIEWED BRIEFLY TALKING POINTS OUTLINING US POSITION ON THIS ISSUE AND OFFERED TO GIVE TIBABU A COPY TO TAKE WITH HIM. TIBABU REPLIED THAT, AS WE WERE AWARE, HE HAD SERVED ON ETHIOPIA'S UN DELEGATION BEFORE COMING TO WASHINGTON AND, IN FACT, HAD BEEN ETHIOPIA'S REPRESENTATIVE ON COMMITTEE OF 24 LAST YEAR. HE APPRECIATED US VIEWS AND WAS NOT YET AWARE PMGSE INTENDED TO CHANGE ITS POSITION FROM A YEAR AGO. IF MOTION CAME TO A VOTE, IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR ETHIOPIA. BUT IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO DEFER QUESTION OF PUERTO RICO WITH A PROCEDURAL MOTION AS OCCURRED LAST YEAR,

HE BELIEVED ETHIOPIA MIGHT BE ABLE ONCE AGAIN TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THAT ACTION. HE SAID HE WOULD ALERT ADDIS ABABA AND THE ETHIOPIAN UN DELEGATION IN NEW YORK OF OUR CONCERN.

3. LOCUST CONTROL: MOOSE NOTED THAT A DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ORGANIZATION (DLCO) OFFICIAL OF ETHIOPIAN NATIONALITY HAD RECENTLY VISITED MOGADISCIO AND HARGEISA WHICH SEEMED TO SUGGEST BETTER COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ON THE LOCUST THREAT. TIBABU REPLIED DLCO OFFICERS, WHETHER ETHIOPIAN OR CONFIDENTIAL

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SOMALI, HAD ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO TRAVEL FREELY IN BOTH COUNTRIES AND WERE ACCEPTED WITHOUT SUSPICION BY THE PEOPLE. ONLY DURING THE RECENT WAR HAD IT BEEN DIFFICULT FOR DLCO PERSONNEL. TODAY THEY SHOULD BE ABLE TO TRAVEL AGAIN TO MOST AREAS. MOOSE SAID WE WERE PREPARED TO HELP AS APPROPRIATE TO COUNTER THE LOCUST THREAT. TIBABU EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE OFFER AND THOUGHT DLCO MIGHT NEED ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT.

4. ERITREA AND SOMALIA: TIBABU SAID IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF OUTSIDERS DID NOT MATERIALLY AID INSURGENTS IN ERITREA. IN THIS REGARD, THE US COULD DEMONSTRATE ITS FRIENDSHIP FOR ETHIOPIA IF IT WOULD CONSIDER TALKING TO ITS FRIENDS IN THE ARAB WORLD, PARTICULARLY SAUDI ARABIA, TO REQUEST THEY DESIST FROM INTERFERING IN ETHIOPIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IN THE MODERN WORLD, WE HAVE ALL LEARNED TO LIVE TOGETHER, EVEN IF OUR SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT ARE DISSIMILAR. FURTHER, ETHIOPIA IS TODAY SIMPLY STRIVING TO SURVIVE. PERHAPS THE US COULD ENCOURAGE ITS FRIENDS TO BE MORE UNDERSTANDING.

5. CONCERNING SOMALIA, TIBABU SAID SOMALIA IS STILL SUPPORTING THE GUERRILLAS IN THE OGADEN. IT IS AS DANGEROUS A SITUATION TODAY AS WHEN THERE WAS OPEN FIGHTING. ETHIOPIA IS THANKFUL THAT THE US HAS NOT SUPPLIED ARMS TO SOMALIA. IF SOMALIA DOES NOT STOP SUPPORT TO THE OGADEN INSURGENCY, ETHIOPIA WILL BE FORCED TO RETALIATE. US ASKED ETHIOPIA NOT TO VIOLATE SOMALIA'S BORDERS A FEW MONTHS AGO; IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE US NOW WERE SIMILARLY TO ASK SOMALIA TO RESPECT ETHIOPIA'S BORDERS.

6. MOOSE REPLIED WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED BY VIOLENCE IN THE OGADEN AND WE HAVE TOLD SOMALIS NO REPEAT NO CONFIDENTIAL

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ARMS COULD BE DELIVERED SO LONG AS THAT SITUATION

CONTINUES UNCHANGED. WE ARE VERY DESIROUS OF THE SOMALIS ADOPTING A POSITION IN WHICH THEY ARE TRULY WILLING TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS. IF THEY ADOPT SUCH A POLICY, WE WOULD WANT A CLOSER ASSOCIATION, WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE SUPPLY OF DEFENSIVE ARMS. WE WANT CLOSE RELATIONS WITH BOTH SOMALIA AND ETHIOPIA.

7. MOOSE SAID MANY OF THE REFORMS THE NEW ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE ENACTED ARE WELCOMED BY MANY AMERICANS. SOME OF THESE REFORMS WERE HOPED FOR UNDER THE HAILE SELASSIE REGIME. WE COULD NOT OVERLOOK, HOWEVER, ABUSES OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH OCCURRED DURING THE REVOLUTION, BUT WE ARE PLEASED TO SEE THAT APPARENTLY THE WORST OF THOSE ABUSES ARE NOW PAST.

8. ETHIOPIA'S SITUATION VIS-A-VIS ITS NEIGHBORS, MOOSE CONTINUED, HAS A LONG HISTORICAL AND RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND. IT WILL TAKE TIME TO CHANGE THOSE ATTITUDES, BUT IT SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED THAT THESE ATTITUDES ARE NOT NEW AND ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AT THE NEW GOVERNMENT IN ETHIOPIA.

9. WHAT DOES CONCERN, AND EVEN FRIGHTEN SOME OUTSIDERS, HOWEVER, IS THE PRESENCE TODAY IN ETHIOPIA OF A LARGE, POWERFUL FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE. WE RECOGNIZE WHY ETHIOPIA BROUGHT IN THESE FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES AND THAT THIS IS AN INTERNAL ETHIOPIAN CONCERN. NEVERTHELESS, THE ETHIOPIANS SHOULD APPRECIATE THAT THEIR PRESENCE IN ETHIOPIA WORRIES OTHER PEOPLE, SUCH AS THE SAUDIS AND THE SUDANESE. CONFIDENTIAL

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0. MOOSE SAID WE WANT TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE OUR TIES. WE ARE CONCERNED, THEREFORE, ABOUT THE EXPROPRIATION ISSUE. AMBASSADOR CHAPIN HAS WORKED VERY HARD TO EXPLAIN THIS ISSUE TO OFFICIALS IN ADDIS ABABA AND WE HOPE THEY UNDERSTAND ITS SERIOUSNESS. WE ARE BOUND BY OUR LAWS WHICH CLEARLY SPELL OUT WHAT ACTIONS WE MUST TAKE IF THERE IS NO PROGRESS IN SETTLING THESE CLAIMS. EX-IM BANK LOANS ARE ALSO AFFECTED BY THIS PROBLEM, AS WELL AS THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. FINALLY, WE ALSO HOPE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND TO THE SITUATION IN ERITREA SO THAT RESOURCES CAN BE PUT TO WORK ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. WE WANT TO TALK WITH YOU ABOUT THESE PROBLEMS SO THAT WE UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER BETTER.

II. TIBABU THEN REPORTED WITH SOME PASSION THE ETHIOPIAN VIEW OF US ACTIONS IN THE PAST FEW YEARS. HE SAID THE US, OF ALL FOREIGN COUNTRIES, SHOULD UNDERSTAND ETHIOPIANS. HE FOUND IT PARTICULARLY HARD TO UNDERSTAND, THEREFORE, WHY WE DID NOT APPRECIATE ETHIOPIA'S PREDICAMENT AND HOW WE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY THE NEW ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAD FELT COMPELLED TO CALL FOR HELP FROM WHEREVER IT COULD FIND IT. THERE WERE INSURGENCIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, THEN SOMALIA INVADED. THE VERY FUTURE OF ETHIOPIA AS A NATION WAS AT STAKE. EITHER THE PMGSE ACCEPTED SOVIET AND CUBAN MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ADVISORS AND TROOPS -- THE ONLY MILITARY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN QUANTITY -- OR THE PMGSE WOULD HAVE TO ACQUIESCE IN THE DISMEMBERMENT OF THE COUNTRY. THE NEW LEADERS DECIDED TO TRY TO ASSURE ETHIOPIA'S SURVIVAL, AND TIBABU SUPPORTED FULLY THAT DECISION. GIVEN ETHIOPIA'S PROBLEMS, THAT IT IS LITERALLY STRUGGLING TO RETAIN ITS INTEGRITY AS A NATION, HOW COULD ANYONE CONSIDER ETHIOPIA TODAY A THREAT TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, LET

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ALONE COUNTRIES ACROSS THE RED SEA OR EVEN FURTHER DISTANT. IF THE SOVIETS WANT TO THREATEN OR INFLUENCE ONE NATION OR ANOTHER, IT COULD ACT MORE DIRECTLY AND EFFECTIVELY THAN GOING THROUGH ETHIOPIA. AFTER ALL, IRAN SHARES A COMMON BORDER WITH THE USSR.

12. THE CONVERSATION ENDED WITH AGREEMENT THAT WE

SHOULD MEET MORE FREQUENTLY TO DISCUSS OUR PROBLEMS  
AND DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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## Message Attributes

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